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development of institutions. The scope of the work is further limited ethnically for the most part to the political theories of the European Aryan peoples, on the ground that they are the only truly political peoples—the only ones who have separated politics from ethics, metaphysics, and theology; and the ideas and institutions of primitive men are left for the sociologists to grapple with. Neither has the author thought it appropriate to go very deeply into the various economic, constitutional, and administrative problems which were in former times discussed by political philosophers, but which have more recently become the subject-matter of separate sciences and are being studied by statisticians and historians as well as by theorists.

The exclusion of primitive man fixes the starting-point of political philosophy proper in ancient Greece; and the first three chapters are devoted respectively to the institutional basis of Greek theory, the political philosophy of Plato, and the Politics of Aristotle. The fourth chapter is divided between the later history and philosophy of Greece and the development of Roman institutions and thought, particular attention being paid to Polybius, Cicero, and the jurists of the Empire. Then follow six chapters on the politico-ecclesiastical institutions and theories of the middle ages, including a section on the application of corporation law to ecclesiastical bodies by the jurists of the fifteenth century. A final chapter is devoted to Machiavelli as representing the transition from mediæval to modern political thought. Perhaps it is not unreasonable to look forward to a second volume devoted to the more recent theories.

The work is equipped with select lists of references, a bibliography of the writers treated and a full index. It is written in the same pleasing style which adds so much to the attractiveness of the author's lectures.

A SELECTION OF CASES ON THE LAW OF INSURANCE. By Edwin H. Woodruff. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1900. pp. xiii, 592.

This work comprises a collection of purely illustrative cases and excerpts from judges' opinions selected and arranged without reference to the development of the law, and eliminating as far as possible all difficulties arising from the real or apparent conflict of legal rules and principles. The collection covers in considerable detail nearly all the branches of the general law of insurance and deals particularly with Fire, Life, Marine and Accident Insurance. The usefulness of the collection will depend wholly on the aims and methods of the instructor adopting it. A case book which is arranged so entirely with reference to placing before the student a statement of abstract rules of law is but a step removed from the text book as the basis of legal instruction. Indeed, much contained in judicial opinions when not stated with reference to the precise facts of the case before the court or when separated from them as is the case when only excerpts from the opinion are given is of less value to the student than the generalizations of text-

writers. The text-writer at least may be supposed to be treating his subject broadly, and not to be speaking with reference to any particular state of facts not placed before his reader.

A case book prepared along these lines affords very little material for use in training the student's power of investigation or familiarizing him with the development of the principles of the law. The primary object of the case book is to provide him with material for examination and comparison in order that he may define or explain away inconsistencies of the decided cases and understand the development of the law. In short, it should be an instrument for developing the power of reasoning soundly, which is the primary object of legal education. Cases which are purely illustrative or judicial opinions which are selected because they contain compendiums of legal rules are convenient and useful, but not essential. The summarizing of rules and the use of illustrations is clearly the function of the instructor which may easily be performed by him if the proper foundation has been laid by the use of what we have indicated as the more essential material for class room work.

There is great need of a satisfactory case book on the law of insurance in nearly all the law schools of the country. It is to be regretted that Professor Woodruff has not met this need in a manner more consistent with the requirements of the case system of legal instruction. His book has some useful and valuable qualities and will undoubtedly be used, especially in institutions committed to the case method of instruction, but largely for the reason that there is no better book in the field; and it may be doubted whether the use of a book of this character presents any advantages over the older method of instruction based upon the use of text books.

A TREATISE ON GUARANTY INSURANCE. By Thomas Gold Frost. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. 1902. pp. xxxviii, 547.

The author tells us "That the theory upon which this work is written has been that of leaving to the courts their natural and allotted task of defining the unsettled principles of guaranty insurance law by future adjudications; while to the writer of the legal treatise belongs the less pretentious task of digesting the 'case law' of to-day with a view of deducing therefrom such rules and principles as a close and intelligent reading may seem to justify." For obvious reasons it is to be regretted that Dr. Frost has taken such a modest view of his function as the writer of a "treatise" on the law. The modern growth of the various forms of guaranty insurance has given rise to a considerable body of law in which the familiar principles of the law of insurance are applied under new conditions. To some extent at least it requires special treatment by the legal writer, which is inadequate indeed if it gives us nothing more than an elaborated digest of the cases. Barring however the consequences of this self-imposed limitation the book is a very creditable production and bears evidence of pains-taking and thoughtful preparation. The author cites about four hundred cases, most of them of recent date, which he seems to have selected and arranged with discrimination. The larger portion of the work is